WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for audibly identifying an event, the method comprising:

enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity related to the event;

receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of a telephone call, and alerting an intended recipient of the telephone call comprises playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound..

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first sound is a generic ring tone and the second sound is a ring tone specified by the caller.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the generic ring tone is concatenated with the caller-specified ring tone.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an

instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an e-mail sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the sender.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the sender.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the

first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second sound is a sound that is chosen to identify the entity or the event.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second sound is chosen to classify the entity or the event.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the first or second sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies a group to which the user belongs.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the entity is a user, the event is the recipient receiving a digital communication from the user, and the first or second sound identifies the type of digital communication received from the user.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to still further classify the entity or event.

26. A computer system for audibly identifying an event, the computer system comprising:

an event sound processor configured to

enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of a user related to the event;

an event detection processor configured to

receive a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

an audio playback processor configured to

alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.

27. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, to receive the notification by receiving notification of a telephone call, and to alert an intended recipient of the telephone call by playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound.

28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the first sound is a generic ring tone and the second sound is a ring tone specified by the caller.

29. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the generic ring tone is concatenated with the caller-specified ring tone.

30. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and to receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.

31. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receive the notification by receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.

32. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an e-mail sender and receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.

33. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.

34. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the sender.

35. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.

36. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the sender.

37. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.

38. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

39. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the first or second sound is a sound that is chosen to identify the entity or the event.

40. The computer system of claim 39, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.

41. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the first or second sound is chosen to classify the entity or the event.

42. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the first or second sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.

43. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies a group to which the user belongs.

44. The computer system of claim 43, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.

45. The computer system of claim 43, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.

46. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.

47. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the entity is a user, the event is the recipient receiving a digital communication from the user, and the first or second sound identifies the type of digital communication received from the user.

48. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.

49. The computer system of claim 48, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.

50. The computer system of claim 48, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to still further classify the entity or event.

51. An apparatus for audibly identifying an event, the apparatus comprising:

means for enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity user related to the event;

means for receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

means for alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.